

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PM-07 IGA-02 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /107 W
 ----- 074488

P R 111140Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3356

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC CP SMITH HI

COMUSMACHTAI

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF

USAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10996

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE SITUATION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RICE SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SITUATION
 IN PHNOM PENH FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 7.

	OCT 1	OCT 2	OCT 3	OCT 4
BEGINNING STOCK	5,650.9	5,244.2	6,608.3	6,183.5
AIRLIFT	-	52.8	60	56.0
ROUTE 4	-	-	-	-
MEKONG	-	1,750	-	-
RECEIVED FROM RICE MILL				
	108.7	109.4	98.1	89.6

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TOTAL AVAILABLE 5,759.6 7,156.4 6,766.4 6,329.1

LESS DISTRIBUTION	478.7	544.0	541.5	498.1
BALANCE	5,280.9	6,612.4	6,224.9	5,831.9
LESS ADJUSTMENT	36.7	4.1	41.4	10.9
BALANCE	5,244.2	6,608.3	6,183.5	5,821.0

	OCT 5	OCT 6	OCT 7
BEGINNING STOCK	5,821.0	5,673.0	5,209.9
AIRLIFT	106.0	149.6	26.2
ROUTE 4	-	-	-
MEKONG	-	-	2,000.0
RECEIVED FROM RICE MILL			
	81.0	60.3	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	6,008.0	5,882.9	7,236.1
LESS DISTRIBUTION	327.6	631.6	-
BALANCE	5,680.4	5,251.3	7,236.1
LESS ADJUSTMENT	7.4	41.4	
BALANCE	5,673.0	5,209.9	7,236.1

2. STOCK POSITION - AS OF OCTOBER 7 THERE WERE 7,236.1 M/T OF RICE, BROKEN RICE, AND PADDY IN RICE EQUIVALENT IN PHNOM PENH PUBLIC WAREHOUSES. THE VESSEL ADRIANA ARRIVE ON OCTOBER 7 WITH 2,000 M/T OF THAI RICE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE STOCK FIGURE. NO ADDITIONAL IMPORTED RICE IS EXPECTED TO REACH PHNOM PENH BEFORE OCTOBER 22 AT THE EARLIEST, EVEN BY SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOY. THE COMBINED INPUT OF DOMESTIC RICE THROUGH THE USAF AIRLIFT FROM BATTAMBANG AND THE AIR AMERICA AIRLIFT FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG SCHEDULED TO START OCTOBER 12 IS CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED AT 1,690 M/T BETWEEN OCTOBER 8 AND 21 WHEN PHNOM PENH STOCKS ARE EXPECTED TO REACH A LOW MARK OF APPROXIMATELY 3,100 M/T OR LESS THAN ONE WEEK'S SUPPLY. LEARLY PHNOM PENH STOCKS CANNOT AFFORD TO FALL BELOW ONE WEEK LEVEL. THIS WILL HAPPEN IF THE INCOMING SHIPS FROM THAILAND ARE DELAYED EVEN FUTHER. THE PRESENT AIRLIFT CAPABILITY FROM BATTAMBANG AND THE ABOUT TO BE INITIATED AIR AMERICA AIRLIFT FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG WILL NOT MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE. WE ARE INVESTIGATING ADDITIONAL EXTRAORDINARY MEANS TO KEEP RICE STOCKS FROM FALLING BELOW MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. AMONG THESE MEASURES IS AIRLIFT FROM THAILAND.

3. DISTRIBUTION - DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THE DAILY DISTRIBUTION AVERAGED 431.6 M/T. THE DAILY AVERAGE FOR THE 10-DAY PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 7 WAS 374.9 M/T BUT ONE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE 3-DAY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY DURING WHICH NO RICE DISTRIBUTION TOOK PLACE. BY PROJECTING A DAILY AVERAGE OF 450 M/T, THE STOCK ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 7 WILL LAST 16 DAYS. THE PROJECTED STOCK FOR OCTOBER 21 ON THE SAME BASIS OF DISTRIBUTION WOULD GIVE 6.9 DAYS' SUPPLY.

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BUTION AVERAGED 431.6 M/T. THE DAILY AVERAGE FOR THE 10-DAY PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 7 WAS 374.9 M/T BUT ONE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE 3-DAY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY DURING WHICH NO RICE DISTRIBUTION TOOK PLACE. BY PROJECTING A DAILY AVERAGE OF 450 M/T, THE STOCK ON HAND AS OF OCTOBER 7 WILL LAST 16 DAYS. THE PROJECTED STOCK FOR OCTOBER 21 ON THE SAME BASIS OF DISTRIBUTION WOULD GIVE 6.9 DAYS' SUPPLY.

4. THAI RICE - A REVISED PROJECTION OF DELIVERIES TO PHNOM PENH FOR THE BALANCE OF OCTOBER READS AS FOLLOWS IN METRIC TONS, BASED ON LATEST INFORMATION ON ETA'S BANGKOK.

VESSEL	ETA	M/T	MEKONG CONVOY	ETA PHNOM PENH
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WING PENG	10/14	1,800	SPECIAL	10/22
TACK TAI	10/15	3,400	REGULAR	10/27
HAI KIM	10/15	2,200	SPECIAL	10/27
BONANZA	10/13	1,800	REGULAR	10/27
ADRIANA	10/20	2,200	SPECIAL	10/27

11,400

OF THE ABOVE TOTAL OF 11,400 M/T, 1,250 M/T REPRESENT THE BALANCE OF THE LAST 5,000 M/T TRANCHE, AND 10,150 M/T ARE PART OF THE FIRST 12,500 M/T TRANCHE. NOTE THAT TACK TAI WILL HAVE TO UNLOAD 1,000 M/T IN KOMPONG SOM IN ORDER TO NAVIGATE THE MEKONG. THE SELECTION OF SPECIAL VERSUS REGULAR MEKONG CONVOYS IS BASED ON ETA'S VUNG TAU.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND TRANCHE OF 12,500 M/T IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED BY LY KIM HENG IN BANGKOK ON HIS WAY BACK FROM SEOUL.

5. KOREAN RICE - PER SEOUL 6785, A CONTRACT FOR 20,000 M/T WAS SIGNED OCTOBER 8 BY ROKG AND GKR REPRESENTATIVES. A TENTATIVE SHIPPING SCHEDULE WORKED OUT BY LY KIM HENG IN SEOUL CALLS FOR TRANSSHIPMENT IN SAIGON OF APPROXIMATELY 15,100 M/T AND DIRECT SHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH OF APPROXIMATELY 6,000 M/T BETWEEN THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 2 TO DECEMBER 16.

6. JAPANESE RICE - THE GKR HAS EMPOWERED ITS AMBASSADOR IN TOKYO TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS.

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7. RICE SITUATION IN BESIEGED PROVINCIAL TOWNS - KOMPONG THOM CONTINUES TO RECEIVE RICE SUPPLIES VIA THE GKR AIRLIFT. SVAY RIENG HAVING REPORTED A RICE STOCK OF 763.8 M/T AS OF OCTOBER 6, THE AIRLIFT IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. FOR KOMPONG CHAM, THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED THE KHMER NAVY TO ORGANIZE A RICE RIVER CONVOY.

ENDERS

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